

Extract of Committee Minute of 9th May

Grove Wellbeing Centre – Provision of Pool Seating

The Director reminded that Committee that, prior to the opening of the Grove Wellbeing Centre, the Council had agreed that priority for the use for the new pool at the facility would be for public recreational swimming, rather than for the use of swimming clubs. Accordingly, the main pool in the Grove Wellbeing Centre had not incorporated spectator seating. He reported that, since its re-opening, one of the main clubs which used the pool at Grove had lobbied the Council to make provision for spectator seating which would enable gala swimming events to be held at the venue.

The Director reminded the Committee that, within the context of the Investment Programme, the Council would be undertaking an extensive review of its leisure estate with a view to transforming leisure provision in Belfast. He pointed out that the requirements of swimming clubs in Belfast, insofar as they related to the hosting of swimming galas, would be considered as part of that process. In addition, he outlined the capital costs which would be incurred in providing spectator seating at the facility, together with the considerable structural works which would be required to be carried out. Accordingly, he outlined the following two options for the Committee's consideration:

1. to refer the matter to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for consideration as an emerging project within the Capital Programme, subject to the undertaking of a feasibility study; or
2. to defer consideration of the request on the understanding that the future requirements of swimming clubs, insofar as it related to the provision of spectator seating for the hosting of swimming galas, would be considered as part of the Council's future review of its leisure estate.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to adopt option 2 as set out.